

# HI-Q

## THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

VE3FW - LARC call sign - honours the memory of the Founding President, P. J. "Pat" O'Shea

### LARC SENATE

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Keith Fiske   | VE3JQ  |
| Ray Forslund  | VE3EDZ |
| Ray Greer     | VE3CH  |
| Dave Kimpton  | VE3AVS |
| Bill Klemacki | VE3AJ  |
| Bill Roberts  | VE3ARN |

President: Bob Hansen VE3RVA  
767-6924

Vice-Pres: (pending)

Secretary: Judy Artist VA3EAP  
345-2218

Treasurer: Jan Sokoloski VA3JRS  
344-3222

Directors: Ed Baumann VE3SNW  
626-9720

Andy Malcolm VE3INI  
345-1858

Maureen Meredith VA3MOB  
344-7868

Pat Pugh VA3PP  
345-8562

Past Pres: Ian Mellis VA3RIM  
577-1628

### LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

|        |                |         |        |    |
|--------|----------------|---------|--------|----|
| VE3YQT | MOUNT BALDY    | 147.06  | (-600) | FP |
| VE3TBR | ST. JOSEPH'S   | 146.850 | (-600) | FP |
| VE3BGA | HILLCREST H.S. | 147.390 | (-600) | FP |
| VE3TBB | UPSALA ONT.    | 145.470 | (-600) | FP |

(linked to VE3YQT)

### THE PREZ SEZ....

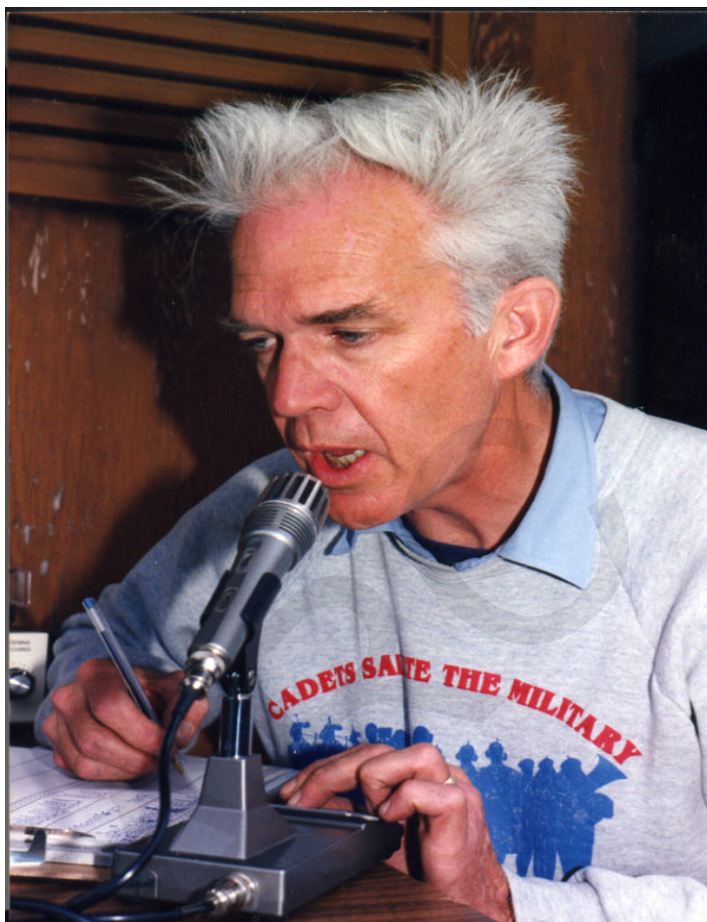
As October comes to a close, I hope all members and their families had a very Happy Thanksgiving.

On Thursday, October 12/2000, the LARC had its monthly meeting with a fine turnout of members. With the passing of our newly-elected President, Skip, **VE3BBS**, as Vice President I accepted the job of being the new President of LARC.

In my acceptance speech, I read to the members the six objectives that were approved by the general membership of LARC on June 14, 1979) (these are found in the 1998 Northern Ontario Amateur Call Book and elsewhere in this newsletter). I promised the membership that I would try to uphold these objectives as your new president.

I will be looking for new ideas on meetings and upcoming events. I hope to see you at the next meeting on **November 9/2000**.

Your President,  
Bob **VE3RVA**



### LAWRENCE “SKIP” WRIGHT VE3BBS (1941-2000)

“Skip” was first licensed around 1965 after completing his Marine Operators’ Certificate. Prior to that he had been a Radioman in the Royal Canadian Navy, serving aboard the HMCS Stadacona, Cape Scott, Tera Nova and the carrier Bonaventure. He was introduced to the LARC by Vic Bel, then **VE3ECV**, and over the next three decades managed to find himself in various executive positions with the club. He had also been appointed public service coordinator as well as emergency coordinator. In these latter capacities, he served the club well in organizing communications for such events as the Legion 10 Mile Road Race, Sibley Ski Tour, International 500 Snowmachine Race, World Nordic Ski Championships and many others.

“Skip” had been sponsor for amateur stations **VE3RCN**, **VE3YQT**, **VE3TBR** and **VE3BGA**. He devoted twenty-eight years to the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps “Vindictive”. At one time he was the Commanding Officer during which time the unit became the top cadet corps in Canada. Recently, he put his entrepreneurial skills to work as owner of TS Radio on Dawson Road. He leaves XYL Linda and son Andrew.

(The foregoing was taken from a biographical sketch done by Ian, **VE3RIM**, in April, 1966 HI-Q....Ed.)

**Down Memory Lane.....**

**October 1979** –The first Executive of the newly incorporated LARC was as follows:

President – Dennis Gasparatto **VE3JAQ**

Vice-President – Bill Unger **VE3EFC**

Directors – Stan Laevens **VE3KRN**

Pat Doherty **VE3HFS**

Ed Kucbel **VE3KRP**

Phil Moorey **VE3AXL**

Everyone nominated for Secretary-Treasurer declined to run! **VE3HTM** suggested our club year run January to December – to be discussed. **VE3HTM** and **VE3HFS** were thanked as the amateur class instructors for 1978-79. **VE3JAB** is in the process of setting up a station at Grandview Lodge with a New Horizons grant. **VE3's JAY, KRQ, EFC, HTM, HFS, KRP** and **EEW** all pitching in to help teach this winter. The fee for classes is \$20. **VE3KRO** is asking for volunteers for Scout Jamboree on the Air.

The call **VE3CCE** is assigned to Confederation College. **VE3ECV** took his QRP rig with him for a three-week work stint in Churchill. There was information in HI-Q on how to obtain your call letter license plates from the MTO. A social picnic was held this past September at Kakabeka Falls with twenty in attendance.

Important news affecting the import of amateur equipment was announced. Parliament is considering the “elimination of the tariff on transmitters, receivers and transceivers designed for use only on the amateur bands.....”. Amateurs were being asked to write their local MP's to explain why this proposal should be supported. **(Back in '79, the tariff for ham gear being imported was around 35 percent!!!...Ed.)** This proposal was being pushed by the R.S.O.

.....73 de ve3avs

**LARC Incorporated.....**

It might be a good idea to revisit our objectives, good for both the club old-timers and newcomers alike.

Your club was incorporated in 1979. Page two of the Letters Patent listed these new objectives of the Club.

- A. To provide an organization for the encouragement of the science of radio, electronics and communications for and by amateur radio operators.
- B. To hold meetings for the purpose of bringing the club members together to share ideas and information related to amateur radio.
- C. To provide the amateur radio (*operator*) with theoretical and practical assistance.
- D. To provide volunteer radio communications as a public service whenever possible.
- E. To promote the hobby of amateur radio, by way of classes, lectures, exhibitions, demonstrations and information to the general public; and
- F. To purchase, acquire or take by gift, devise, bequest or donation for the objects of the corporation and the furtherance of its objectives, but for no other purpose, and to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any real personal property.

Have we been meeting these objectives as a club? As individuals, how have we helped along the way? What will we be doing over the next months and year or so to continue moving toward these objectives? (Ed.)

**Nipigon Repeater Update.....**

Andy **VE3INI** has been informed that the Nipigon repeater will be connected to a 3 bay antenna system for the winter. This should happen early in November.

**RAC Membership Campaign.....**

John **VE3GTX** received an email from RAC indicating a new campaign was starting this fall aimed at former members who have not renewed. Approximately 733 amateurs in the Ontario North division have let their memberships in RAC lapse. Thus a telemarketing campaign was approved at the last RAC Board of Directors meeting.

RAC has asked if our club would be willing to participate; literature and forms are available to assist in this campaign. Contact person is:

L. P. Larry Thivierge, **VE3GT**  
Director, Ontario North,  
RAC [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca)  
Email: [larryt@rene.igs.net](mailto:larryt@rene.igs.net)

**Upsala phone patch update.....**

Terry **VA3LU** passed on the following information:

To make phone call from Upsala repeater:

Send DTMF tones **AA** (shuts off control tone from YQT) then proceed with your phone call in the normal manner. When you finish your call please restore the control tone by sending DTMF tones **BB**.

(Tks Terry ....I'm sure this will help several of us using the Upsala repeater on the road.....Ed.)

**To answer the phone-in on YQT:**

- after** a ring identify yourself
- wait** for one more ring then press \*
- then answer "Lakehead Amateur Radio Club"
- # to hang up the line

**RAC On-air Events.....**

Oct. 28-29 CQ orldwide DX Contest SSB  
Oct. 28-29 10-10 Int. Fall Contest CW  
Oct. 28-29 YLRL Anniversary Party SSB

Nov. 4 IPA Contest CW  
Nov. 4-5 Ukrainian DX Contest  
Nov. 4-6 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest CW  
Nov. 4-5 North American Collegiate ARC  
Championship CW  
Nov. 5 IPA Contest SSB  
Nov. 5 High Speed Club CW

**RAC meeting with Industry Canada Highlights....**

- new Basic and Advanced examinations January 1, 2001
- RAC Basic instruction manual now available, Advanced manual out soon
- IC will be seeking comments from Canadian amateurs regarding 12 wpm Morse testing
- RAC pressed Industry Canada for more stringent enforcement of regulations

**RAC Miscellaneous**

**VB2R** Special Event call in use October 21 to November 5 to commemorate 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary birth of E. S. Rogers Senior, inventor of the "batteryless radio"

**VC5C** Special Event call in use October 27-30 commemorating 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Supreme Court of Canada

Special prefix **XM1** for VE1 and **XL1** for VA1 available for some maritime operators commemorating 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the British and French capitals of Nova Scotia.

**Ignace repeater update.....**

The Ignace repeater **VA3IGN** is in full operation as an unlinked repeater with phone patch. This is an open patch that will allow local and 800 phone calls (Dryden is a local call).

Autopatch access.....dial the number  
 Autopatch termination.....cross hatch #  
 Redial last number .....DD  
 Reverse autopatch answer..... 0  
 Emergency speed dial access..... 9  
 Keypad test..... 5  
 Signal test .....8 (executes a message)  
 Time .....A

The Amateur Radio Society of Dryden now has a home page thanks to the hard work of Scott Moody **VA3EXT**.

<http://dryden.lakeheadu.ca/~smoody/index.html/>

(Thanks Wally **VA3WGL** for submission.....Ed.)

***FOR SALE***

**ICOM ICT7H 2M/440 MHz HT**

**Used only one month!!**

**QSO Harry VA3BNO**

**768-7419**

**(asking \$300)**

**Further info on the UK-Canada LF QSO.....**

By now most amateurs know that a significant cross-band QSO was held with **G0MRF** operating on 135.711 kHz and **VE1ZJ** operating on 20 meters.

**G0MRF** used two sloping 250-foot long wires about 80 degrees apart. Grounding was via the apartment building's plumbing. Maximum power into the antenna was estimated at 700 watts, but at one point the power was dropped to 320 watts with **VE1ZJ** still copying.

Canada has not yet authorized Amateur Radio operation at 136 kHz, but some stations have been given special permission to experiment there. Between November 10-27, **VA3LK** will be attempting a first two-way communications on low frequency. Details on the project can be obtained at this web site:

<http://www.g0mrf.freemove.co.uk/>

(Tks ARAC "Discharge" Newsletter....Ed.)

**How high is high.....**

A new North American distance record at 24 GHz is being claimed by **K6GZA** and **AD6FP**. The SSB contact took place between Mt. Oso in Northern California and Mt. Frazier in Southern California. The calculated distance of 375 Km is believed to be a new record.

(Again tks to ARAC "Discharge" Newsletter...Ed.)

**Congratulations to....Fred VE3FAL** for placing 12<sup>th</sup> overall in the Cub Fox Hunt (QRP) on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Stations involved ran power levels between 900 milliwatts and 5 watts. More info from Fred or:

<http://www.qsl.net/k5di/fox/>

**It pays to be prepared.....**

Saturday morning, October 20, a call came into **VE3YQT** from Ken **VE3EFZ** via the Upsala linked repeater that a motorist had locked his keys in his truck.

Dave **VE3AVS**, who was bike mobile at the time, relayed the information to Randy **VA3GOT**, who maintained contact over ninety minutes with Ken through very marginal conditions. Ken was several kilometers up a pipeline road with flat terrain. Randy was able to obtain the necessary information for CAA to dispatch assistance by working Ken directly on the Upsala repeater. CAA help was sent from Upsala and eventually the vehicle was opened.

Ken was on an outing with Boy Scouts, who were visibly impressed with Ken's preparedness. Local hams were courteous in staying off YQT for the duration of the exercise.

Congratulations to Ken and Randy for persisting where others may have given up. **This event serves to emphasize the need for us to use VE3TBR for phone calls when possible. Also, it is good operating technique to QSY to another repeater or simplex frequency after initial contact is made on VE3YQT, if possible.**

**IS THIS THE THIN EDGE????**

From the CCRAA Landline, we learn that the town of Marlboro, NJ, is prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving. The state will monitor the situation before adopting a state-wide ban. Violators could face a fine of up to \$250 for **talking on a radio while driving.**

(What effect will this have on cabbies, couriers, other commercial operators??....Ed.)

**Looking ahead.....**

In spite of our prolonged and warm Fall, winter is not that far away! Sometime in mid-winter, the "Friends of Sleeping Giant Park" hold an open-park weekend. During this time, the visitor center is open and there are many indoor and outdoor activities for visitors of all age, including some of the best cross-country skiing in this part of Ontario.

This weekend provides an excellent opportunity for LARC through some of its winter enthusiasts to demonstrate amateur radio to the public. A station could be installed in the visitor center feeding into one or more dipoles giving the public an opportunity to see what we do best!

A minimum of three to four operators would be essential to keep the station operating while at the same time taking part in the activities (with our without families).

If anyone is interested, please QSO Dave **VE3AVS** via radio, email, snail mail or eyeball. Sooner is better so that arrangements can be made with the Friends group.

**NOTICE OF LARC MEETING****THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>****CONFEDERATION COLLEGE****ROOM 208B****7:30 pm****(Come early to get a good seat!!!)**



**Minutes of Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club  
held in Room 207B at Confederation College  
Thunder Bay, Ontario, October 12, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President VE3RVA, Bob Hansen with 28 members and guests in attendance. A roundtable took place with those in attendance introducing themselves.

**Acceptance of Presidency:** VE3RVA, Bob Hansen announced that he would take over the Presidency of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. Bob was elected Vice President of the club and with the passing of the newly elected President VE3BBS, Skip Wright, Bob agreed to step into the President's chair.

**Silent Keys:** A moment of silence was observed in memory of VE3BBS, Skip Wright, and VE3EET, Fred Lawrence.

**Acceptance Speech from VE3RVA, Bob Hansen:**

Bob first thanked the past executive for a job well done. They were asked to stand and be recognized. Bob then read a section of an article "Sixty Four Years of Amateur Radio" in the February 1, 1998 edition of "The Northern Ontario Amateur Radio Callbook". What Bob found compelled to read was the objectives of the Club found on page 12 of the callbook. He, as President intends to do his best to keep these objectives and hopes we, as members, will do the same. Bob has recommended we all read this history of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, as it is very interesting and fascinating reading. He concluded his acceptance by praising those among us who are so very talented and add so much to the club. This includes the "techies", the teachers, the tower climbers and all of those who add their expertise to help make this club the success it is.

**Minutes of the Meeting held September 14, 2000**

The minutes of the meeting held September 14, 2000 were published in detail in the September edition of "Hi-Q" and distributed to all members.

**Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski that the minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried.**

**Correspondence:**

-a Silver Award Certificate and letter of thanks from the CNIB for our donation

-letter of thanks from Peter Gallagher re our assistance at the Heart of Thunder Bay Race

**Treasurer's Report:** VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

|                                  |                 |                           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Balance as of August 31, 2000    |                 | <b>\$ 1,640.10</b>        |
| Income                           | 50/50 Draw      | 25.00                     |
|                                  | DONATION        | 85.00                     |
|                                  | Membership Dues | <u>1735.00</u>            |
| Expenses                         | Field Day       | 35.10                     |
|                                  | Hi-Q            | 85.56                     |
|                                  | Miscellaneous   | 46.00                     |
|                                  | Phone           | <u>40.37</u>              |
|                                  |                 | 207.03                    |
| Balance as of September 30, 2000 |                 | <b><u>\$ 3,278.07</u></b> |

**Motion:** Moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by VE3DWP, Dan Darling that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Equipment:** VE3INI, Randy Malcolm reported that the antenna bought at Radio World is "on the way". It is to be located on top of Hillcrest High School. An upcoming visit to Mount Baldy is being planned for a maintenance check and sign-in for VE3YQT repeater. Volunteers are also needed for a trip to Upsala to adjust the corner reflector antenna.

**ARES:** VA3GOT, Randy Gottfred reported that the telephone callout tree was not available. He still has some up-dates to add and asked that any changes in members phones numbers or email, please report to him, a.s.a.p. He will have the "tree" ready for next meeting. Randy reminded those members who do not have their picture on the ARES ID Card, to please arrange to do so for the next meeting. He will have this announced on the

Sunday night net.

**Public Service:** VE3XLB, Linda Bell thanked VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski for her efforts towards the Heart of Thunder Bay Race and all others who participated. Coming up is the O.P.P. Christmas Parade on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:**

VE3SNW, Ed Baumann is working on the issue of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club establishing an amateur radio station at the proposed new 55+ Center to be located in Thunder Bay South. He will report at the November meeting.

**New Business:**

VE3JRS reported that she has an outstanding Insurance bill of \$625.32 to be paid.

**Motion:** moved by VE3XRC, Norm Bell and seconded by VE3GTX, John Watson that the bill be paid. **Carried.**

**Dinner Meeting:** VE3RVA, Bob Hansen volunteered to organize the annual dinner meeting to be held February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001. He is arranging to have it at the Slovak Legion again, but ONLY if the heat is on. Apparently, at last year's dinner meeting, everyone froze !!! Bob has arranged for a guest speaker for this meeting. He will be looking for volunteers to help him.

**50/50 Draw:** Mark Vaillant, VA3MVR and his son Cody, VE3CLV, volunteered to take over the 50/50 draw.

**Election for new Vice-President:** Election for a new Vice-President of the club was deferred until the November meeting.

**Jamboree on the Air:** VE3FAL, Fred Lesnick is looking for radio operators to volunteer at the Grey Wolf Camp, Boy Scout Road, Hwy. 61, Blake Township for the cubs and scouts "Jamboree on the Air", October 21<sup>st</sup> weekend. There will be food and lodging provided, but you are asked to bring your own equipment.

**Dues:** VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski, treasurer, asked if dues can or should be pro-rated for someone who joins the club half -way through the year? There was a discussion on the issue.

**Motion:** moved by VE3GTX, John Watson and seconded by VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton that we refer this issue to the executive and the executive bring it back to the club for recommendation at the November meeting. **Carried.**

**Canwarn:** VA3JMS, John Sacek, brought up the idea of using ordinary maps for weather reporting. He and Wayne Whittaker are going to work on this over the winter. John also introduced the idea of a weather net, weekly or monthly and to name it BBS Weather Net, in honour of Skip. It was received as a good idea, as many members reported how they had been warned of weather conditions.

**50/50 Draw:** Winner of the 50/50 Draw was VE3EMI, John Kaleta.

**Adjournment:** moved by VE3FAL, Fred Lesnick that the meeting be adjourned.

**Guest Speakers:** VE3RVA, Bob Hansen introduced our guest speakers, VE3FAL, Fred Lesnick and VE3XT, Bill Unger of the **Little Thunder QRP Club**. Fred and Bill gave a very interesting and informative presentation about their passion, the hobby of QRP, Amateur Radio communications with very low power. Fred said that it is so fascinating to talk to someone half way around the world on a radio that you have built yourself, from a kit! And , he brought some of the radios he has made, some of them inside a little cough drops can, imagine that. Now that takes a lot of time, patience and skill to solder on something so darned small. Speaking of soldering, that is one of Bill's passions, to "melt some solder" without making smoke, and then making the radio work. Both Fred and Bill are very keen about their hobby and invite anyone to join the **Little Thunder QRP Club**. Rob VanWyck, VA3FLB, added his enthusiasm to the presentation by displaying a radio he had built also. There was quite a nice display of radios, transistors, newsletters and books for all to look at. A question and answer session followed the presentation as everyone present was thoroughly interested in learning about yet another branch of Amateur Radio.

Thanks to Fred and Bill for their presentation; we look forward to "chapter two" at the next meeting.

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**Don't miss a single copy of HI-Q. Send your change of address notice to the Club.**